

Second, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt, as well as other federal officials, has told each of us that in the event of a pandemic, Washington will not be able to help every community affected and we will be responding with our own state's resources and plans. Depending on how a pandemic scenario unfolds, any one of us could be left without National Guard resources that might have been taken by the president.

These facts make it even more urgent that Section 1076 is repealed. The U.S. House Armed Services Committee took an important step this week by including language repealing this section in its mark-up of the FY '08 Department of Defense authorization bill.

I urge you to contact your state's members of the U.S. House of Representatives and tell them to support the new Defense Authorization Bill when it comes to the floor so our ability to respond to disasters is protected.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

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